

SHIPS

Smooth sailing for launch of Duxbury's maritime school

By Jeff McLaughlin
GLOBE STAFF

DUXBURY - It was "fair winds and tides" all the way for the launch of the Duxbury Bay Maritime School last weekend.

The "HMS" Rose, the largest active wooden tall ship in the world, arrived in Snug Harbor on Friday afternoon to serve as the centerpiece for a three-day series of fund-raising events for the non-profit, community-based school that will offer its first sailing classes June 8.

And by the time Rose weighed anchor at dawn on Monday, the volunteers who had organized the weekend were exhausted but ecstatic - the ambitious fund-raising goal of \$50,000 had been met; 3,000 to 4,000 people had toured the tall ship; the school's programs and plans had received widespread publicity; and the captain and crew of the Rose had pronounced their reception in Duxbury to be what old salts call "finest kind."

"It was an awesome weekend," said Kim Cully of Duxbury, chairwoman of the volunteer team. "So many things could have gone wrong, but instead everything went right, better than we planned, maybe better even than we dreamed. Even the weather was picture-perfect."

Cully said what gratified her most was that "what started out as a school event really turned into a townwide event, a regional event."

A sailor since her days as a Sea Scout in Newport, R.I., Cully is wise in the ways of tall ships. She was a crew member on

Camelot sailing north from Bermuda for New England's Tall Ships events during the US Bicentennial in 1976 - but she was new to community organizing.

"The people who really deserve credit are Dolores Savage and JoAnn Hebert, who volunteer for everything in Duxbury, always do a great job, and pitched in and really made this work," said Cully. "And without our harbormaster, Don Beers, we might not even have been able to get Rose here."

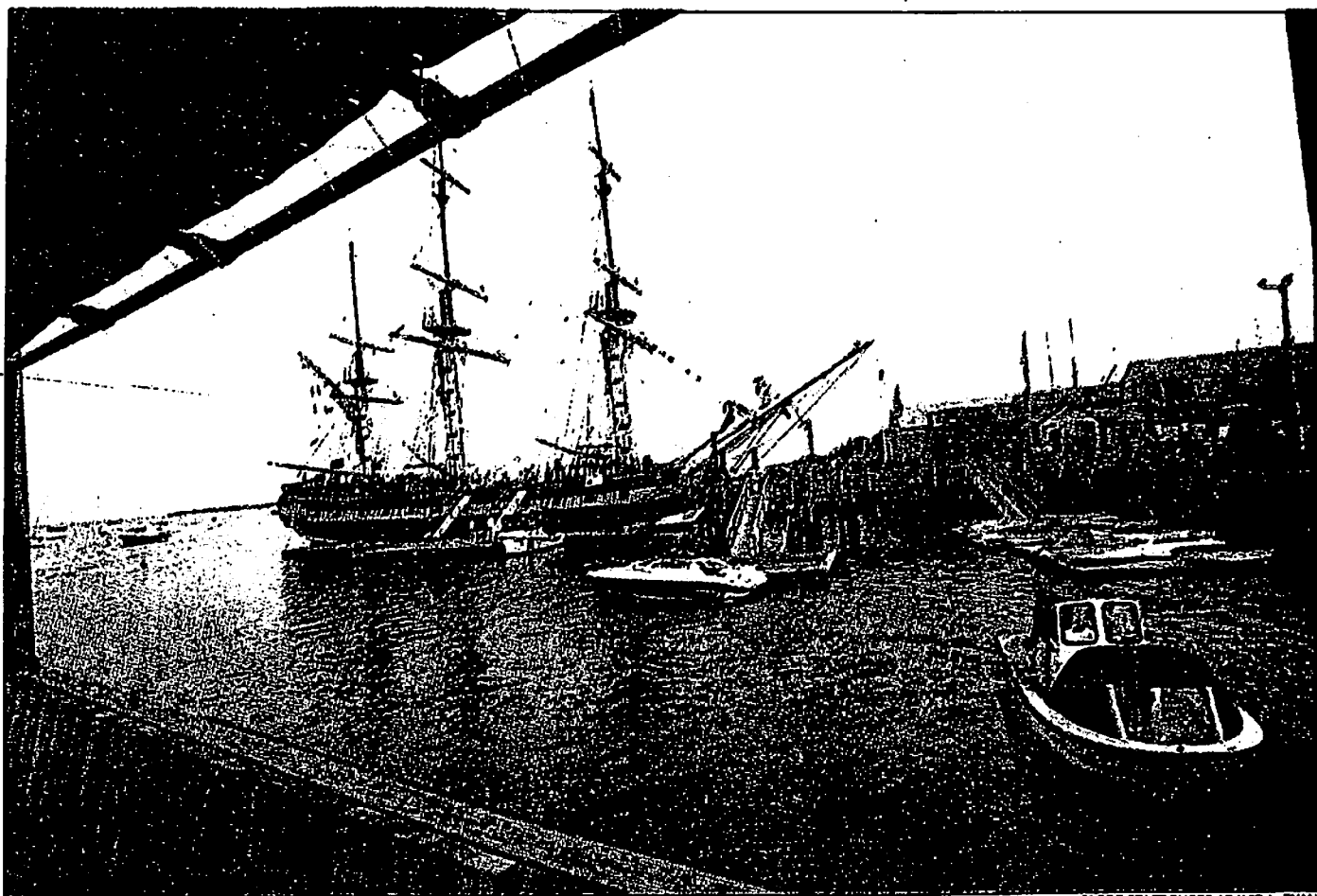
She noted that the Lakeville-based Ocean Spray corporation was the lead sponsor of Rose's visit, with strong support from several of the area's Dunkin' Donuts franchises, Duxbury-based Century 21 Walker Bros. real estate firm, the management consulting firm Demos Consulting Group of Duxbury, and the Boston office of Janney Montgomery Scott stock brokers.

Cully also cited David O'Connell, owner of Duxbury's Winsor House inn and restaurant, "not only for fabulous catering services, but also for summing it all up. The Rose crew was singing sea chanties, the ship was rocking in the harbor, everyone was feeling salty as can be, and David said, 'This is the way Duxbury should be every weekend.'"

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GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / DAVID L. RYAN

"HMS" Rose, docked at Duxbury's town pier, was the focal point of activities last weekend for the Duxbury Bay Maritime School.